
Leslie D. Taylor



Director, Flight Test Engineering Naval Air Systems Command



In April 2008, Ms. Leslie Taylor was selected to the Senior Executive Service to serve as the Director for Flight Test Engineering within the Naval Air Systems Command's (NAVAIR) Integrated Systems Evaluation, Experimentation and Test Department (AIR-5.1). She serves as the Chief Flight Test Engineer for Naval Aviation leading more than 900 flight test engineers across three geographic sites in the performance of integrated systems test, evaluation, and experimentation to deliver critical war fighting capabilities to our sailors and marines.

In May 2001, Ms. Taylor was selected as NAVAIR's Director for Warfare Analysis and Integration (AIR-4.10), where she was responsible for over 200 multi-disciplinary analysts and engineers located at Patuxent River, Md. and China Lake, Calif. She provided the vision and strategic leadership for the people, processes, tools, and facilities necessary to consistently achieve rigorous, quality, fact-based analysis of naval aviation systems. Items under study are of critical and strategic importance to naval aviation and include the future force mix of tactical air platforms and maritime patrol platforms, key investment strategies for nearly all naval aviation assets, and analytical efforts for operational readiness, network-centric warfare, command and control initiatives, and the global war on terror. She additionally served as the Command's Warfare Modeling, Simulation and Analysis (MS&A) lead and has made great strides to invigorate the application of MS&A in the Acquisition Process.

In June 1998, Ms. Taylor became the Weapons Integration IPT lead for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program where she led a diversified team consisting of roughly 100 military and civilian personnel from across the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, UK Royal Navy, UK Royal Air Force, Boeing, and Lockheed Martin industry counterparts. She developed a Lethality Roadmap capturing the JSF Engineering and Manufacturing Development block approach to integrate over 100 required weapons for the multi-agency, multi-nation program. She maintained insight into each of the competitor's designs and led the IPT throughout the Conceptual Design Phase and into Source Selection. Her leadership was crucial to JSF meeting Department affordability, lethality, supportability, and survivability objectives for which she was recognized with the Department of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

In July 1990, Ms. Taylor was assigned as a Competency Manager within the Test and Evaluation (T&E) Department (AIR-4.11) as both the Air-Launched Ballistics Branch Head for five years and the Close Air Support Branch Head for three years. In 1994, Ms. Taylor received the Excellence in Federal Career Bronze Award for Supervisors.

Prior to serving as a Competency Manager, Ms. Taylor served as the Team Lead for Joint Advanced Strike Technology Stores Certification Process, Team Lead for Weapon Employment Planning Data and Fleet Support of Air Launched Ordnance, and as the Navy's lead safe-escape analyst, serving as Naval Aviation's representative to the Joint Munitions Effectiveness Manual Fragmentation Working Group. During her time in T&E Engineering, she obtained a selected passenger card allowing her to fly in tactical jet aircraft.

Ms. Taylor received her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the West Virginia Institute of Technology in 1984. She earned her master's degree in engineering management from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1993. She graduated from the Senior Executive Management Development Program in October 1998 and is currently an instructor for Johns Hopkins University in the Systems Engineering curriculum.